



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/773,684

02/06/2004

Paul A. Lotke

4323-P03363US0

7807

110 7590 10/21/2008
DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
1601 MARKET STREET
SUITE 2400
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

EXAMINER

SNOW, BRUCE EDWARD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3738

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/21/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/17/08 have been fully considered and overcame the rejection anticipated by Merchant (6,616,696) and the rejection anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Aubaniac.

Regarding the rejection anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious Keller (DE 29 01 099 A1), applicant notes that insert 17 is part of a system and not intended for implantation by itself. The Examiner agrees with applicant however notes that the current claim set is directed to a device and not a method. It is the Examiner's position that the insert of Keller is fully capable of being implanted separately. Regarding claim 1, the insert is fully capable of the posterior portion engaging the femur. Claim 14, the medial and lateral extension would extend along the intercondylar notch. Claim 50, see figure 6, at least the interior edges are divergent. Claim 78, referring to figure 6, the extension flare from the notch reducing in width at least at the portion immediate to the notch. Therefore a center-line of this portion would angle out (either medial and lateral).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 59-64, 66-76, 84-94, 97, 98 are allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3738

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

(f) he did not himself invent the subject matter sought to be patented.

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5, 14-24, 50-58, 78-83, 95, 96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious Keller (DE 29 01 099 A1).

Referring to all figures, specifically figure 3, Keller teaches:

78. (Currently Amended) A femoral prosthesis 17, comprising:

a first portion 18, 19 having a posterior surface configured to overlie a portion of a trochlear groove and an anterior surface forming a groove cooperable with a patella;

a second portion (generally 24) connected with the first portion, wherein the second portion is configured to overlie a portion of the intercondylar notch forming a surface cooperable with the patella;

wherein the second portion is configured so that the prosthesis has a terminal edge along the intercondylar notch:

and wherein the second portion has a length and a width and the length is greater than the width.

Regarding at least claims 1, 14, 59, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) when a patellar prosthesis is positively claimed: It is unclear if Keller teaches a patellar prosthesis, however, it is well known in the art to use a patellar prosthesis of a different material with a femoral prosthesis. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use a patellar prosthesis in combination with the femoral prosthesis of Keller when deemed necessary by the surgeon to repair the knee joint with a damaged or disease patella with predictable results.

Regarding claim 1, the first and second wings (second portion) taper as shown in figure 6. The prosthesis is view as being saddle-shaped.

Regarding at least claim 55 requiring a condyle prosthesis, see generally elements 12.

Regarding at least claim 58 requiring a narrow waist, see figure 3, the narrowing convex portion just below element 17.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruce E. Snow whose telephone number is (571) 272-4759. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571) 272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bruce E Snow/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3738